

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11143 071638Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7101
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, US, EIND, ETRD, OECD
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 6, 1978:
UK POSITION ON OECD STEEL COMMITTEE

REF: BRUSSELS 10395

1. DURING DEBATE ON STEEL SECTOR PROBLEMS AT THE JUNE 6
EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL (SEE SEPTTEL) UK TRADE
SECRETARY DELL UNEXPECTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT HMG WILL
WITHHOLD APPROVAL OF EC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED
OECD STEEL COMMITTEE UNLESS THE U.S. TAKES NECESSARY ACTION
TO END ANTI-DUMPING PROCEDURES PENDING AGAINST BRITISH
FIRMS. DELL'S SPOKESMAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE USG
SHOULD PRESSURE U.S. COMPANIES TO DROP THOSE SUITS PRE-
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DATING INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. TRIGGER PRICE SYSTEM SINCE
BRITISH ACCEPTANCE OF TRIGGER PRICES HAD BEEN CONDITIONAL
UPON SUCH ACTION BY THE USG.

2. DELL'S SPOKESMAN SAID THERE ARE THREE MAIN CASES
AFFECTING THE UK, BUT PARTICULARLY THE SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST
THE BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION (BSC) BY ARMCO. HE SAID

BSC HAS INDICATED THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF ITS EXPORTS TO THE U.S. ARE AFFECTED BY ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT THE U.S. COMPANIES DO IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, ADDING THAT HMG IS BANKING ON THE COMPANIES' INTEREST IN THE NEW COMMITTEE. HE ASSERTED THAT "BY FAR THE GREATEST WEIGHT" OF PRE-TRIGGER-PRICE ACTIONS AFFECT THE UK, ALTHOUGH SOME U.S. ACTIONS ALSO AFFECT FRANCE.

3. A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT, IN HIS REPLY TO DELL, EC COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON SAID THE USG HAD EMPHASIZED DURING MAY 25 STEEL CONSULTATIONS (REFTEL) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT MAKE ANY FIRM PROMISES ON ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS, SINCE ANY PRODUCER CAN LAUNCH SUCH PROCEDURES, AND U.S. OFFICIALS ARE BOUND TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS. DELL TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "PRETTY CLEAR ASSURANCES" FROM THE COMMISSION THAT THE EC WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH THE OECD STEEL COMMITTEE UNLESS U.S. ANTI-DUMPING CASES ARE WITHDRAWN. HINTON

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